In re Patent Application of:
DE LAENDER ET AL.
Serial No. **10/660,067**
Filing Date: **September 11, 2003**

In the Claims:

Claims 1-63 (Cancelled).

64. (Currently Amended) A pallet comprising:

a ~~at least one~~ top support member for supporting ~~adapted to support~~ cargo;

a ~~at least one~~ bottom support member;

a plurality of solid support blocks for separating the ~~at least one~~ top and bottom support members so that a lifting member can be inserted therebetween;

each solid support block comprising a composite material entirely devoid of any openings and comprising at least one cellular material and at least one thermoplastic ~~thermal plastic~~ material, and having upper and lower support member fastening surfaces ~~devoid of any openings~~ for ~~completely~~ defining respective upper and lower support member fastener areas; and

a plurality of fasteners ~~for~~ fastening the ~~at least one~~ top and bottom support members to the plurality of solid support blocks via the respective upper and lower support member fastener areas.

65. (Previously Presented) The pallet according to claim 64, wherein the plurality of solid support blocks comprises three groups of blocks, wherein a first group of support blocks is positioned in a first row adjacent a first edge of the pallet, a second group of support blocks is positioned in a second row across the center of the pallet, and a third group of support

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blocks is positioned in a third row adjacent a second edge of the pallet.

66. (Previously Presented) The pallet according to claim 65, wherein the first, second and third rows are positioned substantially parallel to each other.

67. (Currently Amended) The pallet according to claim 65, wherein the top support member comprises:

~~further comprising~~ three cross supports positioned generally parallel to each other, wherein the first, second, and third rows of support blocks support the three cross ~~supports,~~ supports; and

~~wherein the at least one top support member is configured as a~~ at least one plate coupled to a top surface of the three cross supports.

68. (Previously Presented) The pallet according to claim 64, wherein the thermoplastic material is selected from the group consisting of polypropylene and polyethylene.

69. (Previously Presented) The pallet according to claim 68, wherein the polyethylene has a density between about 0.9 grams per cubic centimeter and about 0.98 grams per cubic centimeter.

70. (Previously Presented) The pallet according to claim 68, wherein the polyethylene is selected from the group

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consisting of a linear low density polyethylene, an ultra low density polyethylene, a low density polyethylene, a high density polyethylene, and an ultra high molecular weight polyethylene.

71. (Previously Presented) The pallet according to claim 68, wherein the polypropylene is formed from the group consisting of homopolymers and copolymers having densities between about 0.8 grams per cubic centimeter and about 0.99 grams per cubic centimeter.

72. (Previously Presented) The pallet according to claim 64, wherein the thermoplastic material is a thermosetting resin selected from the group consisting of polyesters, epoxies and vinylesters.

73. (Previously Presented) The pallet according to claim 64, wherein the cellular material has particles sizes between about 0.1 mm and about 1 mm.

Claim 74 (Cancelled).

75. (Previously Presented) The pallet according to claim 64, wherein the cellular material is selected from the group consisting of wood, linen flax shives, bagasse from sugar cane, jute, rice husks, paper fiber, recycles paper, nut shells, cornhusks, and bamboo.

Claim 76 (Cancelled).

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77. (Previously Presented) The pallet according to claim 64, wherein at least one of the plurality of solid support blocks comprises first and second substantially flat surfaces located on opposite ends of a longitudinal axis.

78. (Previously Presented) The pallet according to claim 77, wherein the at least one solid support block further comprises third and fourth substantially flat surfaces between the opposite ends of the longitudinal axis.

79. (Previously Presented) The pallet according to claim 64, wherein the plurality of solid support blocks have a cross-sectional shape selected from the group consisting of an oval, a teardrop, an egg shape, an elongated hexagon, a diamond shape and a kite shape, defining a longitudinal axis of the solid support block.

80. (Previously Presented) The pallet according to claim 64, wherein the at least one cellular material includes particle sizes between about 0.05 mm and about 4 mm.

81. (Previously Presented) The pallet according to claim 64, wherein a concentration of the cellular material in the composite is between about 40 percent and about 60 percent.

82. (Currently Amended) A pallet comprising:

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a top support member comprising a plurality of spaced apart cross supports positioned generally parallel to each other, and ~~a~~ at least one plate coupled to an upper surface of said plurality of spaced apart cross members for supporting ~~adapted to support~~ cargo;

a ~~at least one~~ bottom support member;

a plurality of oval-shaped solid support blocks for separating the plurality of cross supports and the ~~at least one~~ bottom support member so that a lifting member can be inserted therebetween;

each solid support block comprising a composite material entirely devoid of any openings and comprising at least one cellular material and at least one thermoplastic ~~thermal plastic~~ material, and having upper and lower support member fastening surfaces ~~devoid of any openings~~ for ~~completely~~ defining respective upper and lower fastener areas; and

a plurality of nails ~~for~~ fastening the top and bottom support members to the plurality of solid support blocks via the respective upper and lower fastener areas.

83. (Previously Presented) The pallet according to claim 82, wherein the plurality of solid support blocks comprises three groups of blocks, wherein a first group of support blocks is positioned in a first row adjacent a first edge of the pallet, a second group of support blocks is positioned in a second row across the center of the pallet, and a third group of support blocks is positioned in a third row adjacent a second edge of the pallet.

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84. (Previously Presented) The pallet according to claim 83, wherein the plurality of cross supports comprise at least three cross supports positioned generally parallel to each other, and wherein the first, second, and third rows of support blocks support the three cross supports.

85. (Previously Presented) The pallet according to claim 82, wherein the thermoplastic material is selected from the group consisting of polypropylene and polyethylene.

86. (Previously Presented) The pallet according to claim 82, wherein the thermoplastic material is a thermosetting resin selected from the group consisting of polyesters, epoxies and vinylesters.

87. (Previously Presented) The pallet according to claim 82, wherein the cellular material is selected from the group consisting of wood, linen flax shives, bagasse from sugar cane, jute, rice husks, paper fiber, recycles paper, nut shells, cornhusks, and bamboo.

88. (Previously Presented) The pallet according to claim 82, wherein a concentration of the cellular material in the composite is between about 40 percent and about 60 percent.

Claims 89-95 (Withdrawn).